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Date: 5 January 1951

COUNTRY: Poland

SUBJECT: General Information on Conditions in Poland

DATE OF INFORMATION:

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1.

The most oppressive regulation [redacted] was the oath that had to be written and signed by every worker on the first day of May. Each person had to faithfully obligate himself to perform certain things which would be most helpful to the regime, fulfill individual quotas over those prescribed, to work so many additional hours overtime each week, etc. Other regulations and restrictions [redacted] considered oppressive are: (1) Applauding whenever Communism was mentioned at public gatherings; (2) restriction on how much money could be earned; (3) registration and de-registration when moving; (4) work discipline; (5) secrecy about work even though one worked in a candy factory; (6) using force to attend political meetings and (7) elimination of religious instructions in schools.

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2.

3.

report those students who did not attend class, those who were late for class, those who performed their

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lessons unsatisfactorily and those who failed examinations. [redacted] students would pay fines for the above failures, 50X1-HUM

4.

[redacted] a non-party member [redacted] was not allowed to attend Communist meetings. [redacted] their greatest difficulty was in acquiring new members. The second problem the CP cadre encountered was in teaching Leninism, Marxism and Stalinism. Because the local CP had such a small membership, its members were forced to work many hours each day. Many were at the point of exhaustion and took on the "I don't care" attitude, as a result, cooperation was something to be desired.

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[redacted] there was very little, if any, jealousy between agencies or the regime. All jealousies observed were between members in the various agencies. This was due not so much to positions individuals held but to the difference in salary of people on the same level. 50X1-HUM

6.

- (a) Their own propaganda against the free world does more harm than good to the regime.
- (b) Attack on the church--imprisonment of the hierarchy.
- (c) Collectivization of farms.
- (d) Exploitation of the working class.
- (e) Communization of youth.

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7.

- (a) History of Poland--completely changed after 1948.
- (b) Polish literature--discarding the writings of well-known Poles and misinterpreting the writings of those whose works can be read. 50X1-HUM
- (c) Religious holidays--discontinuance of such holidays as the Pentecost, All Souls Day and St. Peter and Paul.

8.

[redacted] the Polish people would like to retrieve all their native customs, habits and culture lost to them under Communism. Most desirable would be freedom of religion.

9.

Hatred propaganda against the Free World caused the most difficulty. Poles are fed up with the constant drumming of hatred and the hatred campaign is at a point where it has no meaning. Their second difficulty is acquiring new members. The people pay little or no attention to their recruiting propaganda. Thirdly, they have the problem of gaining the people's confidence.

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10.

Individual action to hurt or discredit the regime is impossible. Any action must be spontaneous, in that way it would be difficult to place the blame on any one individual. 50X1-HUM

11.

individuals who were anti-Communist referred to them as people with "private initiative." Another name given to some was "Reaktionista" (Reactionary).

12.

Particular problem for the Communists is to recruit members for the Party whether it be in the city or in the country. A serious problem confronting the Communists in the country is an attempt at "Farm Collectivization." The farmers hold out until the last possible moment. 50X1-HUM

13.

A non-Communist speaks to a Party member only when absolutely necessary. At other times non-Party members will avoid contact with Party members. Those who are so-called "Paper Communists" have no problem. People will not go out of their way to avoid them.

14.

No event is too expensive or disrupting to the Communists. An embarrassing situation for the Communists is the fulfilling of working norms and quotas. These are placed so high that fulfillment is impossible. The people are able to compare their own production figures with those published in newspapers. This situation has caused the Communists undue embarrassment. 50X1-HUM

15.

The officials on the lowest level are most unhappy with their task. They do the most work and receive the least credit. Many of these officials work eighteen to twenty hours each day. 50X1-HUM

16.

All passive resistance whether it be against the regime or decrees of the regime is ineffective. Fear of death or reprisal is so deep rooted that people do not hesitate to carry out decrees even though it may cause hardship. There may be minor attempts, however, they are insignificant.

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